

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3349

S E C R E T USNATO 6211

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/81
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO AND THE OIL SHORTAGE

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

REF: USNATO 6011

1. AS MISSION REPORTED AT THE TIME, SEVERAL NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AND THE CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE ALL VOICED CONCERN AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETINGS ON DECEMBER 7 ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE FUEL SHORTAGE ON NATO'S DEFENSE EFFORT AND READINESS. THE POINT WAS MADE PARTICULARLY SHARPLY AT THE DPC RESTRICTED SESSION (REFTEL), WHEN DUTCH MOD VREDELING, STATING THAT HIS COUNTRY'S DEFENSE WOULD BE "RESTRAINED" BY THE SHORTAGE, FORMALLY NOTIFIED NATO OF THE OIL SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS, AND QUESTIONED THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE ALLIES LACKED SOLIDARITY ON THE ISSUE.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PILGRIMS SOCIETY SPEECH IN LONDON HAS PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT INITIATIVE WHICH COULD POINT THE WAY TO A LONG TERM SOLUTION TO THE ALLIANCE'S ENERGY PROBLEMS. MISSION IS PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION WASHINGTON FEELS DESIRABLE IN NAC/DPC TO SUPPLEMENT OR FOCUS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INITIATIVE, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO NATO DEFENSE. (SEE SEPTEL FOR MORE EXTENSIVE MISSION VIEWS ON THIS THEME.) WE RECOGNIZE THAT, WITH RESPECT TO NETHERLANDS' IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, WASHINGTON

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MAY PREFER TO CONTINUE TO DEAL BILATERALLY, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. WE NOTE, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT CONERTED NATO ACTION TO ALLEVIATE DUTCH FUEL SHORTAGE COULD PRECIPITATE ARAB REPRISALS IN FORM OF FURTHER OIL RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING EUROPEAN

ALLIES. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE CONCERNING ANY ACTION
WASHINGTON MAY WISH MISSION TO TAKE IN NAC/DPC RELATING TO DUTCH
FUEL SHORTAGE.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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